



Web: <https://apsvic.org.au/aps-grampians/>

Email: grampians@apsvic.org.au

NEXT MEETING
Sun, 22nd August, 1:30pm
Pomonal Hall
Clive Carlyle "Plants in Wild Places"

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From the President

Dear all

An uncertain time for us all, and uncertain times for the planning of events. Refer to our calendar of events on the last page for what's on the horizon. If Melbourne is locked-down mid September, the Quarterly Gathering (COMM weekend) we are hosting will be cancelled. If regional Victoria has no travel restrictions imposed on it, we plan to still hold the flower show. Fingers-crossed.

Please [click here for the online form](#) to register your intent to attend any of the COMM weekend activities. Note that this is just to register your intention to attend one or more activities so we have an idea of numbers & can organise catering. Please advise me at grampians@apsvic.org.au as soon as possible if you subsequently have to cancel. Registration deadline is Friday the 10th of September.

Note the time and date of the August meeting: Sunday the 22nd at 1:30pm. This is so it follows on from the working bee for the hall & Jane's gardens (BYO lunch, weeding implements, hat & sunscreen). If coming, don't forget your mask and to check in on arrival (QR codes or a check-in book will be available).

The next activity will be our 40th birthday celebration at the hall on the 23rd of September. I encourage as many members as possible to come and enjoy a laugh, camaraderie, reminisces, a drink and some birthday cake of course!

Best wishes everyone

John

Last Meeting



Correa reflexa var *lobata* – a rare variety from the hills of Gippsland (Neil Marriott)

How enjoyable, after another long pandemic lockdown break, to see our APS friends again, including our newer members, and some visitors Daryl and Lisa, who have subsequently joined the group.

It was May, and the subject was “Correas” presented by David and Barb Pye, from Bullengarook. Barb showed us the genus *Correa*, taking us through the many and varied forms of each species, beautifully illustrated with clear and colourful photos. Cultivation requirements were discussed for each species; it was interesting to find how they differ from their closest relatives.

Possibly the *best* part followed, when David then showed us live specimens of some of the interesting forms and cultivars they have growing in their garden, which sits high on a ridge in the hills north of Bacchus Marsh. These were handed around amongst the enthusiastic members,

with much oohing and aahing, many of us taking lovely cuttings home to propagate for our own gardens.

Wendy Marriott

Member Profile

This is a new feature for our newsletter. Each month we will interview one of our members and ask them some questions about themselves and their garden. This month Fiona Lucas interviews foundation member, Phil Williams, normally the editor of this newsletter. He is the owner of Wildflower Nursery, a wonderful community asset, formerly open to the public, in Wildflower Drive, Pomonal.

Q. *When did you first join APS GG?*

A. I first joined in 1981 and was a foundation member.

Q. *What is your favourite species?*

A. Our group emblem, *Grevillea dimorpha*, Flame Grevillea.

Q. *Why?*

A. It is a Grampians endemic. It occurs in many different forms, all of them attractive. It is hardy and long lived in the garden and is easily propagated by cuttings



Q. *Do you have a favourite time of year?*

A. I prefer the times of transition, i.e. spring and autumn, when the garden seems to change every day.

Q. *Do you have a plant in your garden that is your absolute favourite and why?*

A. No, I don't have a favourite plant in the garden. I can find something to delight me every time I walk round the garden.

Q. *Do you have a plant in your garden that is your continual challenge and why?*

A. No. If a plant does not thrive, I don't persevere with it but I plant something more suitable.

Q. *What advice would you give to a member starting a garden?*

A. Whole libraries full of books are devoted to this question and I have to answer in one sentence! My answer is take your time, do lots of research and look round many gardens in your area before you plant anything.

Q. *Why do you continue to be a member of APS GG?*

A. I like the company of people with the same interests. After 40 years, there is still much to learn about Australian plants.

Feature Article

Hakeas Flowering In Winter in our Garden – Part 1

Neil Marriott

One of the wonderful things about having an Australian garden is the multitude of plants that flower right throughout the dullness of the cold and wet months of winter! When deciduous trees and shrubs are looking like ugly skeletons in the garden, hundreds of our Aussie natives are in full flower, brightening our gardens and providing valuable nectar for honeyeaters. Prominent amongst these are my favourite members of the Proteaceae family, Grevilleas and Hakeas.



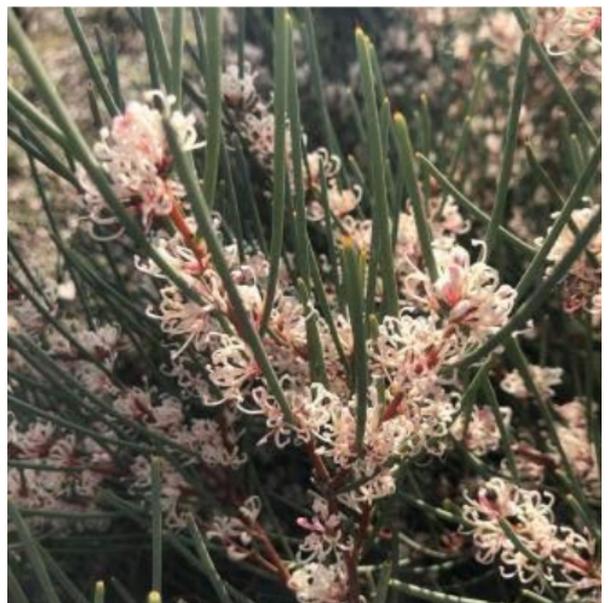
Hakea cristata (N. Marriott)

Hakea cristata –Western Australia

When rumours abounded of Hakea and Grevillea being lumped together, I decided that it was important for me to establish a large collection of Hakea. Fortunately the DNA research showed that these rumours had no substance, but I have continued to try and grow all Hakea species, and we now have approximately 160 of the 170+ species. Many of these are flowering beautifully at present, and this article depicts just a few of these. *Hakea cristata* is a lovely white flowered species growing to around 2m with beautiful showy red new growth contrasting with the white flowers that really lighten up on dull winter days!

Hakea cycloptera

Hakea cycloptera is a low, dense shrub from mallee areas of South Australia that begins flowering in autumn, continuing well into the depths of winter. Very tough, sweetly perfumed and drought hardy, attracting numerous insects, including honey bees, to the garden.



Hakea cycloptera (N. Marriott)



Hakea francisiana 'Pomonal Pink' (N. Marriott)

***Hakea francisiana* 'Pomonal Pink'**

We all know and love *Hakea francisiana*, with its pink to red-pink flowers and usually grey-green foliage, but the selection above is a wonderful rich pink form with ashy-grey foliage that arose in a garden in Pomonal. I suspect that this may have been the garden of Dave and Linda Handscombe, who gave material to a nursery in Melbourne, and who are now mass-producing it by grafting onto hardy rootstocks. We probably should have one of these in our hall garden complete with a special plaque! A real beauty and a local selection!!

Hakea obtusa

Hakea obtusa is a dense shrub to around 2-3m with attractive soft oval leaves. However the flowers are truly show-stopping, being cream turning hot pink, and massed on the older wood in the middle of the bush. When walking past the plant, the flowers are barely noticed, but on pulling the branches apart the whole inner parts of the shrub are covered in these amazing flowers. Very hardy.



Hakea obtusa (N. Marriott)

... to be continued

Ask the Expert

Another new feature for our Newsletter. This month's question is from Fiona Lucas and answered by Neil Marriott.

Q. We have a 12 month old Eucalyptus ??? which we need identified please. Also it was looking beautiful before winter, but over winter it has developed this scale like features. What has caused this and what can be done?



- A. It is indeed a Eucalyptus - *Eucalyptus preissiana*, or Bell-fruited Mallee.
What you're seeing is fungal or frost damage resulting from our recent cold, wet winter.
It will recover as the weather warms up

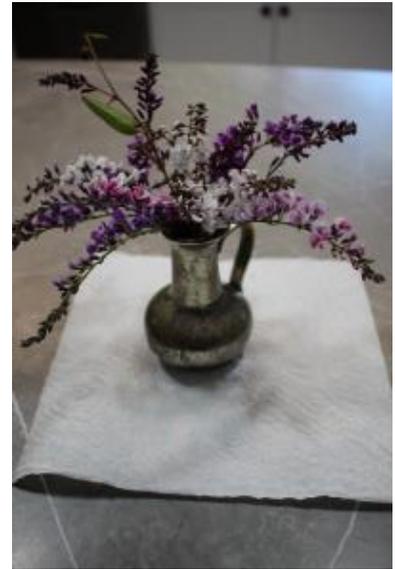
To all members: Please send in a question that you would like answered

What's Growing in Our Gardens

Kevin and Sandy Molyneux have sent in the following pictures of some of the lovely different forms of Native Sarsaparilla or Sarsaparilla Creeper or Happy Wanderer *Hardenbergia violacea*.



Various flower colour forms of *Hardenbergia violacea*



As a vase decoration



White flowered form climbing on fence



Purple form on our fence

Calendar of Events

August

- Sun 22nd PH (Pomonal Hall): garden working bee 10:30am, followed by meeting at 1:30pm, during which Clive Carlyle will talk on *Plants in Wild Places*

September

- Thu 23rd 7:30pm PH 40th birthday; everyone to bring something from their garden
- Sat 25th PH APS Vic COMM & AGM
- Sun 26th APS Vic COMM activities: WAMA am, Panrock Ridge lunch & garden tour
- Mon 27th-Thu 30th APS Vic COMM activities: Hikes, flower walks, bird walks, winery tours
- Thu 30th Start setting up hall for flower show

October

- Fri 1st: Pick flowers; set up marquee, vases etc.
- Sat 2nd-Sun 3rd: PH Flower Show
- Tue 19th 7:30pm AGM

November

- Tue 16th 7:30pm SNH (Stawell Neighbourhood House): Paul Kennedy on hakeas

You are encouraged to contribute to future editions of this newsletter.

Please send any contributions or suggestions to

grampiansnewsletter@apsvic.org.au

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/APS-Grampians-Group-960723023989990/>

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